that they were not to appear till thirty years after his death whetted the appetite of the public On the death of the Duchesse de Dino, his niece and literary executor, in 1862 they passed into the hands of Bacourt, who imposed a further delay of twenty years. Dying in 1865 he left the papers to two other men who died before publication. What would the Bishop of Autun have to say about the *ancien regime*, the member of the States General about the Revolution, the Foreign Minister about the Directory, the man who helped to make Brumaire about the First Consul and the Empire, the octogenarian Ambassador about the Monarchy of Louis Philippe ? It was an anti-climax when the Due de Broglie published the fivevolumesin 1891-2, fifty-three years after the author's death, Half the work consisted of official despatches. Since the narrative part fell so far short of expectations, since no reasons for the long delay were apparent in the text, and since the manuscript was in Bacourt's writing, doubts as to its authenticity were expressed by Aulard and other scholars of repute, Bacourt described it as " the only authentic and complete copy of the Memoirs, made by me from the mss., dictation and copy.** But where were the originals ? SorePs contention that there had never been an original version was at any rate partially disproved when Lacour-Gayet, in the course of researches for his great biography, discovered about a hundred pages in Talleyrand's hand, dealing with Napoleon's treatment of Spain. Comparison of the new with the old version led to two important results. Firstly, they were sufficiently alike to establish the authenticity of Bacourt's work. Secondly, the number of small changes and omissions indicated that Bacourt, doubtless at the

instigation of the Duchesse de Dino, took unwarranted liberties with the text. Examples are given in the fourth volume of Lacour-Gayet, who goes so far as to say that the work should be called the Memoirs of Talleyrand-Bacourt.

Talleyrand helped even more in the overthrow than in the making of Napoleon, and he was mainly responsible for the restoration of Louis XVIII; yet he was deeply distrusted by the royalists and was soon out of office. He settled down to compile his memoirs in 1816, always bearing in mind the chances of a return. The first volume brings the story down to 1809 ; the second and part of the third describe his activities in the first and second restorations and the Congress of Vienna, the crowning moment of his career. The blunders of Charles